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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: December 9, 1997
Subject: Indiana Ave. Vacant Lot, Chicago, Illinois
From: OSC Cindy Nolan/Keith Lesniak, U.S. EPA, Region 5, Chicago

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POLREP # 1 Initial (November 18 through December 6, 1997)

II. BACKGROUND

Site No: B507
CERCLIS No: IL0002009317
Response Authority: CERCLA
State Notification: IEPA
Demobilization Date: N/A
Status of Action Memorandum:
Delivery Order No: 5001-05-696
ERNS No:
NPL Status: Non-NPL
Start Date: November 18, 1997
Completion Date: December 31, 1997
Threat Determination Signed 10/97
Action Memo Signed 11/97

III. SITE DESCRIPTION

A. Site Information:

The Indiana Avenue Vacant Lot site is located in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois on the southwest corner of South Indiana Avenue and 43rd Street (41°49'06"N and 08°37'17"W). The site is less than 1/4 acre and consists of approximately 70 drums and 1000 small containers of various structural integrity. The site is located in an environmental justice area with a mixture of residences and commerce. The site is bordered on the north by a fence, a church, and a small yard; on the west by a fence and an alley; on the south by a small garage-type building; and on the east by a parking lot.

On July 8, 1997, U.S. EPA's Keith Lesniak and two START members conducted a site assessment. Drum samples indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds above permissible exposure limits. Contents of the drums included paints and solvents. In addition to drums and containers, waste piles and paint-contaminated soils are located onsite. A local resident informed U.S. EPA that the site had been used as a small paint manufacturing facility.

B. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results

During the July 8, 1997 site assessment, three drum samples were taken, two of which are classified as hazardous. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) permissible exposure limits for the following compounds were exceeded: lead (1,400 mg/kg), toluene (110,000 mg/kg), and total xylenes (420,000 mg/kg). Also, flash points were found to be as low as 70°F.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Actions Taken

On November 18, 1997, EPA's Keith Lesniak, START Damon Sinars, and Response Manager Mark Stock conducted a site walk-through.

During the week of November 24 through November 26, 1997, mobilization activities were coordinated, including procurement of the command post, site security, and equipment. Also, START prepared the Site Safety Plan in coordination with EQM.

On December 1, 1997, EPA's Lesniak, START Sinars, EQM Clerk Scott Baker, and Superior Services' RM Stock, 1 operator, and 1 technician mobilized to the site. The site safety plan was reviewed by each worker. The Superior crew began to clear non-hazardous trash from site. The City Department of Streets and Sanitation provided small dumpsters and hauled the trash to a local landfill. Approximately 24 yards of non-hazardous trash were transported off-site. In addition, the crew began to remove approximately 1.5 feet of paint sludge-contaminated soil located behind the church. Also, tires were separated from the hot zone. START conducted air monitoring and photodocumentation.

On December 2, 1997, the crew continued to move non-hazardous debris into dumpsters. The city transported 15 yards of non-hazardous debris off-site. Twenty-yard roll-off boxes began to arrive onsite. The soil contaminated with paint sludge was placed into the roll-off boxes. A composite sample of each roll-off was taken. Used syringes were found on site.

On December 3, 1997, the crew continued to conduct general site cleanup and loading contaminated soil into roll-offs. Additional roll-off boxes for soil and a roll-off box for tires were delivered to site. A composite sample the contaminated soil in was taken and sent to the lab (Specialized Assays in Nashville, Tennessee) for analysis. In addition, a drum staging area was prepared and drum staging was initiated.

On December 4, 1997, staged drums were numbered, inspected for labels and markings, and sampled. Also, the crew continued to clear the drum area of debris and contaminated soil and staged additional drums. Tires were loaded into a separate roll-off box.

In addition, a biological hazard disposal container was obtained from the Hines VA Hospital for the used syringes found on site.

On December 5, 1997, the crew continued clearing debris and soil, sorting small containers, and staging and sampling drums. In addition, the crew began to disassemble the damaged fence surrounding the site and prepared another staging area for additional drums. START began hazcatting operations at the U.S. EPA mobile lab at 17th and State St.

On December 6, 1997, the crew completed staging and sampling 55-gallon drums. They continued sorting small containers and clearing debris. Several additional syringes were found and placed into the biological hazard container. Hazcatting operations continued.

To date, 69 drums have been staged and sampled, 46 drums have been hazcatted, 67 syringes have been placed into the bio-hazard container, 38 tires were placed into a roll-off box, 44 yards of non-hazardous debris were taken off-site to a landfill, and 9 20-yard roll-off boxes were filled with contaminated soil. Air monitoring has indicated low levels of volatile organics in the hot zone and backgound levels outside the hot zone.

B. Next Steps:

- Sort small containers
- Hazcat material from drums and unknown small containers
- Assign waste groups for each container
- Dispose of empty drums and scrap metal
- Arrange for contaminated soil disposal
- Arrange for drum waste disposal
- Complete debris and contaminated soil removal
- Take down perimeter fence

C. Enforcement:

Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) are currently being pursued.

V. ESTIMATED COSTS

	Costs (through 12/6/97)	Amount Remaining
ERCS	$ 31,990	$ 68,010
START	$ 3,040	$ 1,960
U.S. EPA	$ 5,795	$ 14,885